Dear Children's Church small group leaders,

Thank you for serving the children in Children's Church!!! You will join the children in Grace Park (the large area in the children's building) for worship and the Bible lesson. It will be your responsibility to shepherd them and, if needed, provide redirection during this time so that the leader leading worship or the Bible lesson can focus on leading and engaging the group. Below you will find a schedule for each age group and information about how to use the curriculum for small group time.

Schedule:

11:05ish	Kids dismissed from service	11:30	Small Group time in classrooms
11:05ish	Worship in Grace Park	12ish	Parent Pickup
11:10ish	Bible Lesson in Grace Park		

Using the Curriculum:
We will be utilizing the same curriculum (and hence, Bible passage) for Grace Groups and Children's Church. It's our prayer that this double exposure to the same Bible passage in different ways and by different teachers will allow children to know God's Word better; provide them with the time they need to process its meaning, significance and application for their lives through meaningful interaction and engaging activities; and leave them with a clear takeaway from Sunday morning's ministries.

You'll find the small group curriculum and resources for the Sunday that you're serving in this pdf. A copy of this curriculum and supplies that you request will be provided in your small group bin. This is located on the shelf above the microwave in the children's resource room and is labeled by small group.

NOTE: Please select the activities that you'll need for your group by the Wednesday before you serve. Please contact Jacob (for K-2nd grade classes) or Alicia (for PreK class) no later than 9:00am on Wednesday before you serve to request activities and/or supplies that you'll utilize for your small group time. Please include which memory verse game and lesson review game you'd like to do. The supplies will then be placed in your basket for you to use the coming Sunday.

Elements that should be used in Children's Church Small Group Time:

- ***A hands-on activity or two (e.g., game, craft, coloring page) that are found in this document***: At your request, supplies for the hands-on activity/ies will be gathered for you and placed in the small group bin. You may need to do some minimal, final prep on Sunday before children's church begins
- ***Memory Verse Game****: Instead of using this curriculum's memory verse, please use the small group's Awana verse(s) for the coming week.
- ***Lesson Review Game****: Kids may have already did this in their Grace Group, but you're welcome to do this again in children's church. The reason is that you may choose a different game than they did during Grace Group and/or each child will most likely be answering different questions than they did in Grace Groups. In order to get to the other elements of small group time, you may want to shorten the game by asking fewer questions.
- ***Prayer***: Please pray with your class.

*Lesson Review Games and Memory Verse Games options are found in the appendix located both with the curriculum in the bin for your small group. It's also found at graceplacechurch.org/servekids. Simply click on the button "Memory Verse and Lesson Review Games." If you have another game in mind, you're welcome to use it instead. The Review Questions and hands-on activity/ies that you have selected will be ready for you to use with your small group are found before the appendix in this document.
**Awana verses are found in this pdf and are organized by grade & date.

IMPORTANT: Please prepare in advance!

- Please read the passage (found on the first page of the lesson) and Prepare to Share!
- For all items that you'll need (copies, coloring pages, game supplies, etc…), please inform Jacob (for K-2nd grade classes) or Alicia (for PreK class) of supplies you need by 9 am of Wednesday prior to serving.

Thank you again for serving!

Should you need anything or have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us!
Jacob (405)973-6982
Alicia (808) 386-7067

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Genesis 37



Joseph Becomes a Slave

Joseph's envious brothers sold him as a slave.

Lesson Focus

Jacob favored Joseph over his other sons, which made them jealous. Joseph's dreams indicated that he would one day rule over his family. This made his brothers even angrier. So they sold Joseph into slavery, and he was taken to Egypt. In spite of the brothers' sin, God used these events to bring Joseph to Egypt and accomplish his sovereign plan.

Key Passages

Genesis 37:5–7, 37:9, 37:20, 37:36

Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

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Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The history of Joseph, beginning in Genesis 37, is a fascinating biblical account demonstrating God's sovereignty and orchestration of circumstances to fulfill his plan. The characters are colorful; the plot takes amazing twists and turns; and we see the full gamut of human emotion and experience, including favoritism, envy, remorse, impatience, perseverance, temptation, self-control, resentment, hatred, lying, deceit, reconciliation, and faithfulness. But in the midst of it all, we recognize God at work accomplishing his eternal purposes, in spite of the sinful and deceitful nature of man.

In Genesis 35, God called Jacob to move from Shechem to Bethel. Bethel was the place where God had appeared to Jacob in his vision of the ladder (Genesis 28:12, 28:19). It was at Bethel that God changed Jacob's name to Israel and again confirmed that he would become a great nation and would inherit the land of Canaan (Genesis 35:1, 35:10–12). God changed the names of several people in the Bible (Abram, Sarai, Jacob, Simon Peter). Some believe this was to let these servants of God know that they were now marked for a life completely dedicated to him and to his purposes.

God blessed Jacob with twelve sons—six from Leah, two from Rachel, two from Bilhah (Rachel's maidservant), and two from Zilpah (Leah's maidservant). Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah (Genesis 29:30), and he favored the two sons she bore to him—Joseph and Benjamin—above the others. Jacob's obvious favoritism toward Joseph provoked the dramatic and grief-filled accounts of Joseph's early life.

It was Jacob's evident fondness for Joseph that led him to give Joseph a robe of many colors—an event that provoked his brothers to envy and hatred (Genesis 37:3–4). Joseph's description of his dreams, inferring that one day his family would bow down to him, further enraged his brothers. They were more than ready to take advantage of the opportunity to be rid of him when he joined them on the plains of Dothan. There they seized him and flung him into a pit (Genesis 37:23–24). This, of course, was all according to God's perfect plan and timing. A caravan of traders came by at this point, and Joseph was sold to them as a slave and taken to Egypt (Genesis 37:27–28). God was moving men to accomplish his great purpose. Because of Joseph's seemingly hopeless circumstances, the nation of Israel would be preserved during the coming famine. God's plans cannot be thwarted, and his counsel will stand forever (Psalm 33:10–11). He will use even the lawless actions of men to fulfill his purposes (Acts 2:22–23).

Historical/Apologetics Background

The covenant God made with Abraham over 200 years earlier (Genesis 12:1–3), reaffirmed with Isaac (Genesis 26:1–5), and then proclaimed to Jacob (Genesis 28:13–17) was continuing through history to its fulfillment. God had woven his plan through generations and through his ordained circumstances to this point in history—Joseph's enslavement in Egypt—in order to continue leading his people to the promised land.

Jacob was 91 years old when Joseph was born to Rachel in Haran (Genesis 30:22–24). Joseph lived with his large family in Haran for another six years until Jacob finally fled from Laban, his father-in-law. After 20 years of servitude, Jacob returned to Canaan (Genesis 31:20–21).

On his return to Canaan, Jacob was reconciled with his brother Esau (Genesis 33:4). And then he at last made his way to Shechem, in the land of Canaan, where he erected an altar and worshipped the God of Israel (Genesis 33:18–20). However, Jacob was forced to leave Shechem after his sons Simeon and Levi killed every male and plundered the city as retribution for their sister Dinah's dishonorable treatment by Shechem, son of Hamor (Genesis 34:25–29). Although Jacob was concerned about retaliation for what happened at Shechem, God protected them as they traveled to Bethel, where God confirmed his promises to Jacob (Genesis 35:10–12). After the family left Bethel, Rachel gave birth to Benjamin near the town of Bethlehem, but she died and was buried there (Genesis 35:16–19). The family eventu-

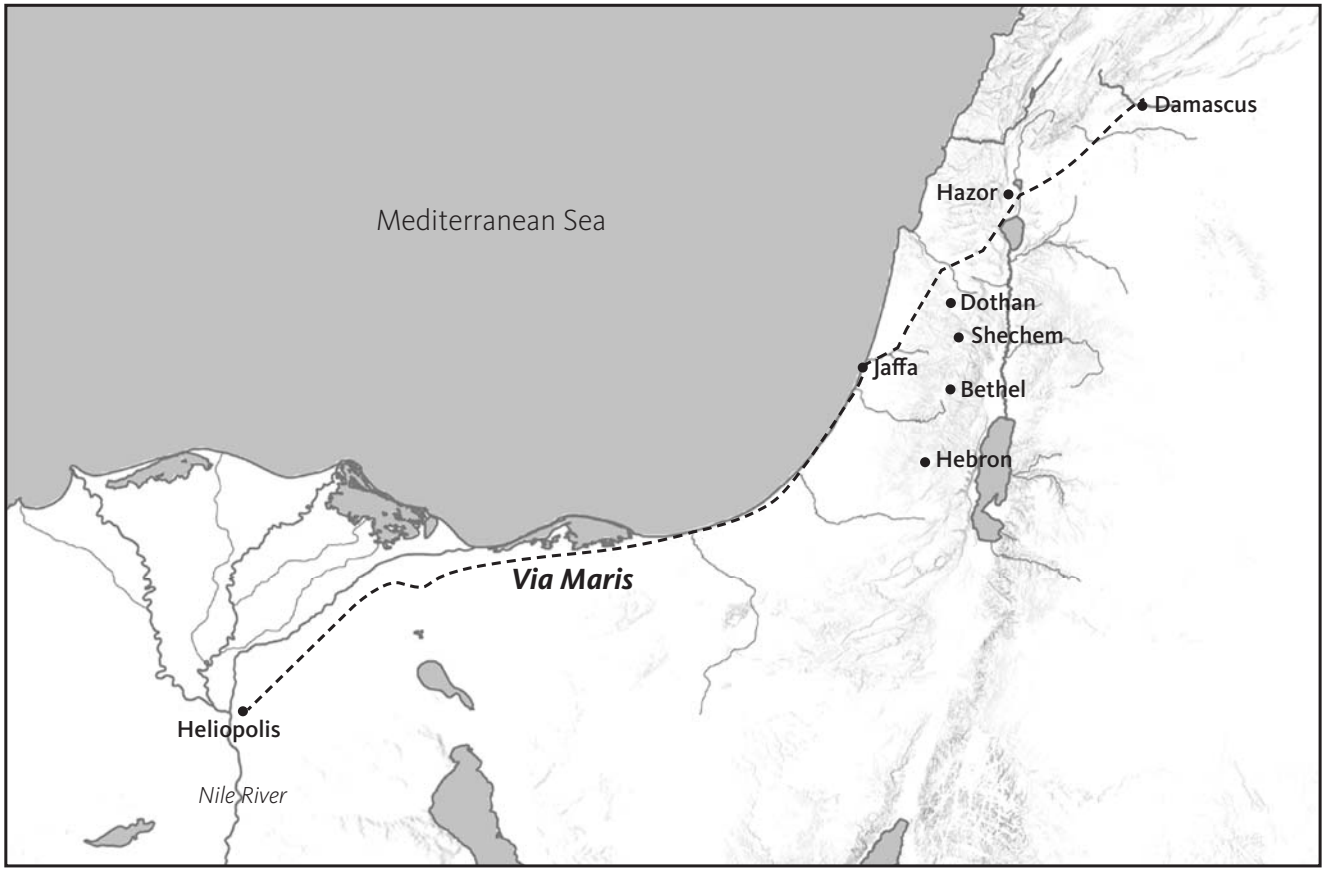
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ally came to Hebron, where Isaac was living. Isaac died at age 180 years, and Jacob and Esau buried him (Genesis 35:27–29).

While we understand and accept the Bible as true history, inspired and preserved by God, it is helpful to know that there are historical and archaeological evidences that confirm the Bible's history. The Scripture passage we are studying this week tells us that Joseph's brothers were pasturing their flocks near Dothan (Genesis 37:17). Joseph traveled from Hebron to Shechem (about 60 miles) in search of his brothers, only to learn that they had moved on to Dothan (about 15 miles from Shechem).

The city of Dothan is identified with modern Tel Dothan in Israel. It lies along the ancient trading route called the *Via Maris*. This is probably the route the Midianite traders were taking when Joseph's brothers encountered them. This important route led from Damascus in the North, across the Jordan River, and then along the seacoast to Egypt—where Joseph would be enslaved according to God's plan.

In Tel Dothan today, archaeological evidences of old buildings and two ancient cisterns have been discovered. One of these may have been the very cistern Joseph was tossed into. The land is still rich for pasturing flocks, and a natural spring supplies water to the area. It would have provided a great place for Jacob's sons to feed their flocks. These details lend support to the biblical account and once again confirm the accuracy of Scripture.



Memory Verses For Children's Church (Oct 2026 - Dec 2026)
*Verses are in ESV Translation

Date	3's-PreK	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade
Oct 18	Jeremiah 10:10 **The LORD is the true God**; He is the living God and the everlasting King. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Psalm 118:1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good…	Jeremiah 32:27 Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for Me?	John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word [Jesus Christ], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He [Jesus Christ] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.
Oct 25	Psalm 31:14 **But I trust in You, O LORD**; I say, "You are my God. *(Short version is in bold.)*	1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.	Proverbs 20:11 Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.	Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Nov 1	Matthew 4:10 **Worship the Lord your God** and Him only shall you serve. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.	Psalm 23:1-3 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.	Deuteronomy 31:8 It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.
Nov 8	John 10:27 **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them,** and they follow Me. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:31 And God everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good…	Psalm 23:4-5 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.	Psalm 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
Nov 15	Psalm 100:4 **Enter His gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts with praise… *(Short version is in bold.)*	Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.	Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.	Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
Nov 22	Psalm 100:4 **Enter His gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts with praise… *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.	Psalm 23 *For today's memory verse, select one of the above three sections from Psalm 23.*	Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
Nov 29	Isaiah 53:6 **All we like sheep have gone astray**; we have turned — every one — to his own way. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.	Psalm 23 *For today's memory verse, select one of the above three sections from Psalm 23.*	Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Dec 6	Psalm 23:4 … **I will fear no evil, for You are with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."	1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

	(Short version is in bold.)			
Dec 13	Luke 1:49 "**For He** who is mighty **has done great things for me**, and holy is His name. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me."	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Romans 5:8 But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Dec 20	Luke 1:49 "**For He** who is mighty **has done great things for me**, and holy is His name. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me."	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Romans 5:8 But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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Review Questions

K–1st Review Questions

1. How did Joseph's brothers feel about him? *They hated him. They were jealous of him.*
2. Why where Joseph's brothers jealous of him? *Joseph was their father's favorite.*
3. What special gift did Jacob give to his son Joseph? *A coat with many colors.*
4. What did Joseph see in his first dream about the grain sheaves? *His brothers' grain sheaves bowed down to his.*
5. What happened in Joseph's second dream? *The sun, moon, and 11 stars bowed down to Joseph.*
6. What did Joseph's dreams mean? *His family would bow to him. He would rule over them.*
7. What did Joseph's brothers do to him when he came to find them? *They threw him into a pit.*
8. What did Joseph's brothers do to get rid of Joseph? *Sold him to the traders, who took him to Egypt.*
9. What did Jacob think when he was shown Joseph's colored coat with blood on it? *He thought Joseph was killed by a wild animal.*
10. Who was in control even though Joseph's brothers sinned? *God.*
11. What is the word that means God is in control of everything? *Sovereign.*
12. Who could Joseph still trust to take care of him even though these bad things happened? *God.*
13. Can we trust God only sometimes or all the time? *All the time.*
14. Who can say our memory verse? *Allow several students to recite the memory verse.*

Pre-K Review Questions

1. Joseph was his father's favorite son. How did Joseph's brothers feel about him? *They hated him. They were jealous of him.*
2. Why where Joseph's brothers jealous of him? *Joseph was their father's favorite.*
3. What special gift did Jacob give to his son Joseph? *A coat with many colors.*
4. What did the grain sheaves do in Joseph's first dream? *His brothers' grain sheaves bowed down to his.*
5. What happened in Joseph's second dream? *The sun, moon, and 11 stars bowed down to Joseph.*
6. What did Joseph's dreams mean? *His family would bow to him. He would rule over them.*
7. What did Joseph's brothers throw him into? *A deep pit.*
8. Joseph was taken to a different country. What was that country called? *Egypt.*
9. What did Jacob do when he thought Joseph was killed by a wild animal? *He cried for many days.*
10. Who was in control even though Joseph's brothers sinned? *God.*
11. Who could Joseph still trust to take care of him even though these bad things happened? *God.*
12. Can we trust God only sometimes or all the time? *All the time.*
13. Who can say our memory verse? *Allow several students to recite the memory verse.*

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Joseph's Coat

Materials

- ☐ Coat pattern (following page)
- ☐ Felt in a variety of colors
- ☐ Small plastic bags



Instructions

Print and cut out one coat pattern. Use the pattern to cut out one coat from the felt for each student. Cut out a variety of shapes from different colors of felt (stripes, circles, triangles, etc.) enough for each student to have several pieces. For older students, you could have them cut out their own shapes.

Have students stick the shapes onto the felt coat to make their own "coat of many colors." No glue needed! The felt should stick to itself and peel up again for another use.

Provide one small bag for each student to take the coat and felt pieces home.

Suggested Discussion

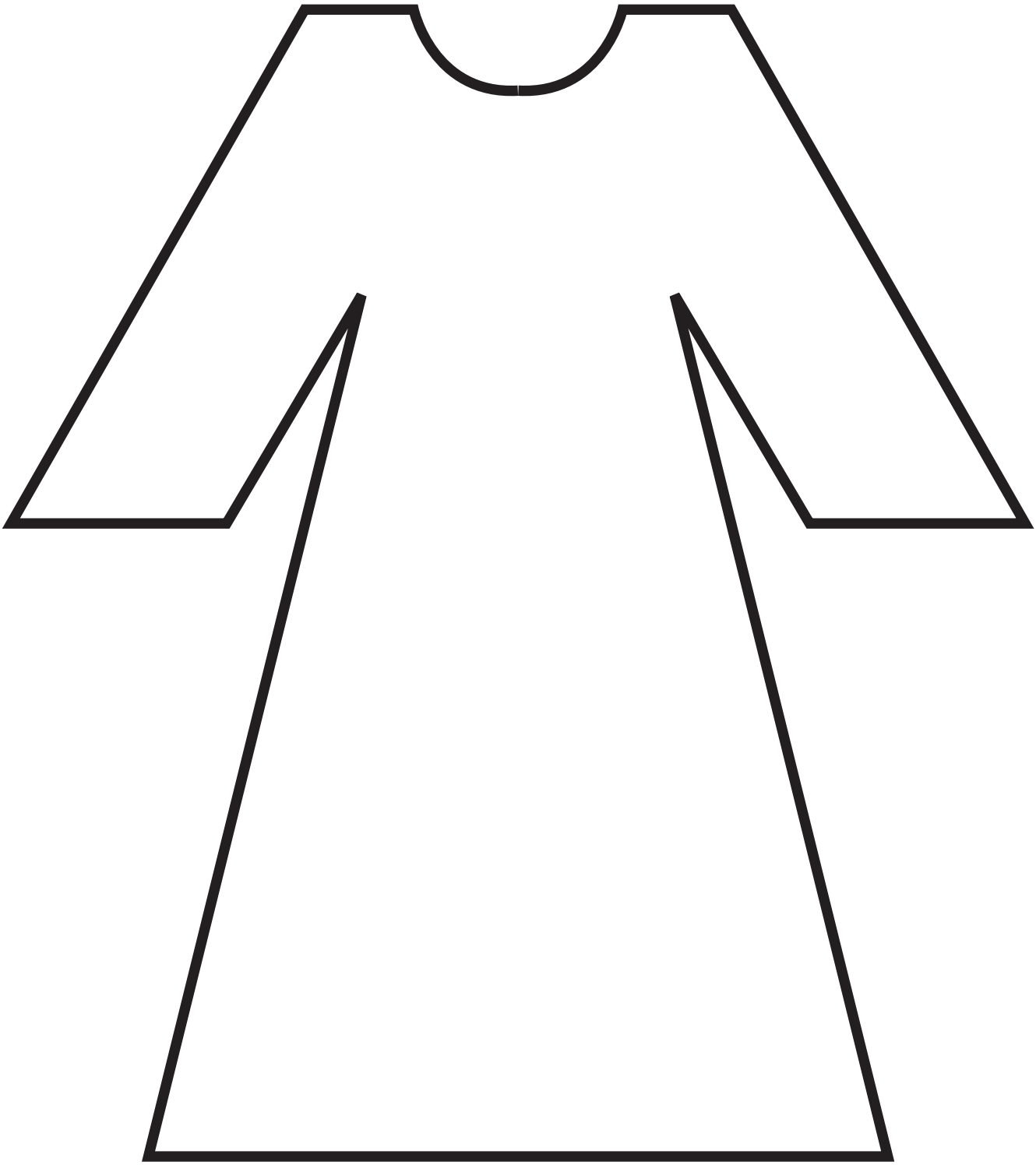
Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons, and he treated Joseph as his favorite. One of the special things he did for Joseph was to give him a coat with many colors in it.

? We don't know exactly which colors were in Joseph's coat. What are your favorite colors?
Allow students to name some colors.

Use the colorful coats you made to remember that God was in control of everything that happened to Joseph.

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Print and cut out one coat pattern.

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